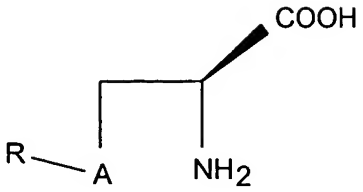
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

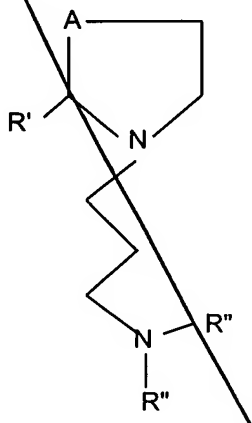
1. A prodrug of the formula:



where A is a sulfur or a selenium, and R is derived from a mono- di- or oligo- saccharide.

2. A prodrug of Claim1 wherein R is derived from ribose, galactose, glucose, or mannose.

3. A prodrug of the formula;



where A is sulfur or selenium,

R' is derived from a sugar and R' has the formula $(CHOH)_nCH_2OH$, where n is 1 to 5, or

R' is an alkyl or aryl group, or

R' is =O, and

the R" groups may be the same or different and may be hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, or carboxy.

4. A prodrug of Claim3 wherein R' is methyl, ethyl, benzyl, carboxyl, phenyl, polyhydroxyalkyl.

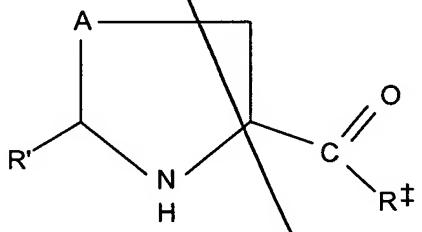
5. A prodrug of Claim3 wherein R" is hydrogen, acetyl, methyl or ethyl.

6. A conjugate of an antioxidant vitamin and a thiolamine or selenolamine.

7. A conjugate as in Claim6 wherein the antioxidant vitamin is Vitamin C or Vitamin E.

8. A conjugate as in Claim6 wherein the thiolamine or selenolamine selected from or a derivative of the group comprising cysteine, cystine, cysteamine, cystamine, glutathione, selenocysteine, selenocysteamine, selenocystine, selenocystamine, WR-1065, and WR-33278.

9. A prodrug of the formula;



where A is sulfur or selenium, and

R' is derived from a sugar and R' has the formula $(CHOH)_nCH_2OH$, where n is 1 to 5, or

R' is also be an alkyl or aryl group, or

R' is =O, and

$R^{\ddagger}$ is an alkoxy, or an amine group.

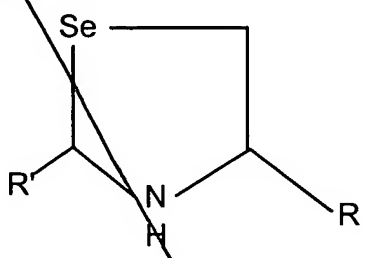
10. .A prodrug as in Claim9 wherein $R^{\ddagger}$ is $-OR^1$ where R^1 is ethyl, or methyl.

11. A prodrug as in Claim9 wherein R' is methyl, ethyl, benzyl, carboxyl, or phenyl.

12. A prodrug as in Claim9 wherein $R^{\ddagger}$ is $-NR^{\dagger}_2$, wherein the $R^{\dagger}$ groups are the same or different and are hydrogen or alkyl.

13. A prodrug as in Claim12 wherein at least one $R^{\dagger}$ is methyl.

14. A prodrug of the formula:



R is COOH or H, and

R' is derived from a sugar and R' has the formula $(CHOH)_nCH_2OH$, where n is 1 to 5, or

R' is an alkyl or aryl group, or

R' is =O.

15. A prodrug of Claim14 wherein R' is methyl, ethyl, benzyl, carboxyl, or phenyl.

add A'